

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/813,633

Examiner

Ismael Negron

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2885

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed July 24, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/17/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on July 24, 2007 has been entered. Claims 5, 14, 26 and 27 have been amended. No claim has been cancelled, or added. Claims 5-27 are still pending in this application, with claims 5, 14 and 26 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 5-27 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant teaches a rearview mirror apparatus for a vehicle, such apparatus including a housing having a mirror on a back side and an opening, a light emitting diode (LED) that plane-radiates light in a direction nearly perpendicular to the optical axis of the LED light emitting element, and a light guiding member attached to the housing such that it is exposed in the opening of the housing. The light guiding member allows plane-radiated light from the LED to be transmitted through the light guiding member and to be reflected on an inner surface of the light guiding to be radiated in a desired direction. In one embodiment, the light guiding member including a hole to fit the LED individually. In a second embodiment, the LED is received at the center of a concave reflection surface.

Art Unit: 2885

Mishimagi (U.S. Pat. 6,769,798) discloses, as seen in figures 1 and 3, a vehicle rearview mirror assembly including a housing 22 and a mirror 18 disposed on the backside of the housing 22. The mirror assembly further include a lamp assembly 23 having light guiding member 26 with a plurality of LED 27 positioned within a void defined by the light guiding member 23. However, the cited reference fails to individually disclose, or suggest when combined, a plane-radiating LED located individually in a hole formed on the light guiding member.

No prior art was found teaching individually, or suggesting in combination, all of the features of the applicants' invention, specifically the claimed light guiding member and LED, in combination with the recited structural limitations of the claimed vehicle rearview mirror apparatus.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Negron whose telephone number is (571) 272-2376. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Art Unit: 2885

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The facsimile machine number for the Art Group is (571) 273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications maybe obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll-free at 866-217-9197.

/Ismael Negron/
Patent Examiner
AU 2885


JONG-SUK (JAMES) LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER